

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment.

The specification has been amended in order to provide better antecedent support for the terminology used in certain claims of this application.

Claim 1 was amended in order to cancel the subject matter added thereto in the Rule 116 amendment filed 7/26/99 and refused entry in an Advisory Action dated 9/3/99 (Paper No. 21). Claims 2 and 4 were amended to be dependent on claim 1 instead of claim 7.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are all in condition for allowance since the Board of Appeals held, in a decision dated 5/24/02, that claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were all patentable over the applied prior art of record and the Patent and Trademark Office found claim 7 to be allowable in the Final Rejection dated 2/17/99. The Rule 116 amendment of claim 1 overcomes the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, by clarifying the subject matter relating to "the secondary circuit". Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are now clear and definite and are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 8-16 were added in order to provide Applicants with protection commensurate in scope with the invention disclosed.

Claims 8-13 are patentable because they are dependent on allowed claim 1 and because they contain further novel and unobvious features over the applied prior art of record. Claim 14 is patentable since the applied prior art does not teach, *inter alia*, means coupling a secondary winding, input terminals and a second circuit together such that the second circuit is supplied with a voltage whose amplitude is equal to the sum of the first DC voltage and the second DC voltage. Claims 15 and 16 are patentable because they are dependent on claim 14 and because they contain further novel and unobvious features over the applied art of record. For example, claim 15 recites means connecting a first input terminal to a first input of a second circuit via a circuit path that excludes a first circuit thereby to supply a second circuit with a first DC voltage. This feature is novel and unobvious. Claims 10 and 12 contain similar subject matter.

Claim 8 adds further novel subject matter which was described in the Rule 116 amendment of 7/26/99.

Claim 9 adds further circuit details of the claimed first circuit and claim 11 adds a circuit detail of the second circuit.

Claim 13 also adds further circuit details as well as the control circuits operating the first switching element at a high frequency and the second and third switching elements at a low frequency. Claim 16 too adds other novel circuit details.

Please charge the cost of any additional fees in connection with the above amendment to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

An early examination and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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APPENDIX A

Marked-up version of amended specification

Page 4, in the paragraph beginning on line 1, change as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the means I~~are~~, or first circuit, is formed by input terminals K1 and K2 for connection to a supply voltage source which delivers a first DC voltage, capacitor C1, switching element T1, control circuit SC1, transformer Tr, capacitor C2, and diode D. Means II~~are~~, or second circuit, is formed by switching elements T2-T5, and control circuit SC2. A lamp La is connected to the means II (second circuit).

APPENDIX B

Marked-up version of amended claims

1. (five times amended) A circuit arrangement for operating a discharge lamp, the circuit arrangement having reduced power loss, comprising:

a first circuit for generating a second DC voltage from a first DC voltage, including

input terminals for connection to a voltage source having a cathode and an anode for supplying the first circuit with the first DC voltage,

a switching element ~~that is not self-oscillating,~~

a ~~separate~~ control circuit coupled to the switching element for changing the conductive state of the switching element,

a unidirectional element, and

a transformer having a primary and a secondary winding;

and

a second circuit coupled to the secondary winding for supplying current to the discharge lamp;

wherein the secondary winding, the input terminals, and the second circuit are coupled together such that the second circuit is supplied by a voltage whose amplitude is equal to the sum of the

first DC voltage and the second DC voltage in order to transfer some power from the voltage source directly to the second circuit without passing through the transformer,

thereby avoiding power loss that would result if the power directly transferred from the voltage source to the second circuit were instead transferred to the second circuit through the transformer.

2. (thrice amended) ~~A~~The circuit arrangement as claimed in Claim 71, wherein the lamp is a high-pressure discharge lamp.

4. (thrice amended) ~~A~~The circuit arrangement as claimed in Claim 71, wherein ~~the means I comprise~~first circuit comprises a DC-DC converter of the flyback type.